



[4910-13]

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **Results of FAA Nitrous Oxide BLEVE Characterization Testing**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Teleconference.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public teleconference to share with the public results of recent FAA sponsored testing of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) characteristics. Nitrous oxide is an important oxidizer to developers of some commercial reusable launch vehicles. A potential hazard in nitrous oxide storage and handling is a Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion (BLEVE), which results from a sudden loss of pressure in a tank containing nitrous oxide stored under pressure above its normal boiling point. The FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation sponsored tests of liquid-phase nitrous oxide at NASA's White Sands Test Facility to empirically determine the superheat limit temperature for nitrous oxide, and to demonstrate that a BLEVE would not occur if the liquid is maintained at temperatures below this superheat limit temperature.

**MEETING INFORMATION:** The teleconference is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The presentation and call-in number will be posted one week in advance at <http://www.ast.faa.gov/>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stewart Jackson, Division Manager, Regulations and Analysis Division, AST-300, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, Telephone (202) 267-7903, or e-mail at [stewart.jackson@faa.gov](mailto:stewart.jackson@faa.gov).

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